

Remarks/Arguments:

By this Amendment, applicants have amended claims 4, 5, and 18. Claims 2, 3, 8-12, 14, 19, 21-24, 26-28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50-53, and 58-67 are cancelled. Claims 4-7, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 25, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, and 54-57 are pending.

Claim Objections

Claims 4, 5, and 18 are objected to for reasons set forth in numbered paragraph 1 (pages 2-3) of the Office Action. Following the Examiner's guidance, applicants have amended claims 4, 5, and 18 to overcome the basis for the Examiner's rejection. It is applicants' contention that these amendments to claims 4, 5, and 18 place these claims in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants' acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's finding that claims 4, 6, 7, 13, 15, 17, 18, 20, 25, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, and 54-57 are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner has not indicated that claim 16 is allowed, and in fact has indicated that claim 16 is "withdrawn". Applicants contend that this is a typographical error and that claim 16 has been pending in this application since the application was originally filed. Claim 16 is directly dependent on claim 15. Applicants are assuming that claim 16 is allowed and would appreciate the Examiner acknowledging the allowance of claim 16.

Claims 2, 3, 8-12, 14, 19, 21-24, 26-28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50-53, and 58-67 are withdrawn. Applicants are canceling these claims by this Amendment in order to place the application in condition for allowance.

Based on the foregoing remarks and amendments, applicants respectfully submit that claims 4-7, 13, 15-18, 20, 25, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, and 54-57 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel N. Calder (Reg. No. 27,424)
Attorney for Applicants

DNC/vj

Dated: January 20, 2004

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P.O. Box 980 Valley Forge, PA 19482 (610) 407-0700
<input type="checkbox"/> P.O. Box 1596 Wilmington, DE 19899 (302) 778-2600

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

January 20, 2004

